

ABSTRACT

A process for obtaining a product rich in unsaponifiable valuable substances from at least one of crude sulphate soap, crude tall oil or tall oil pitch is disclosed. The process comprises (1) providing a feed of at least one of crude sulphate soap, saponified crude tall oil or saponified tall oil pitch, (2) drying the feed, and (3) subjecting the dried feed to high vacuum evaporation to obtain a product rich in unsaponifiable valuable substances, wherein a softener has been incorporated into the dried feed before step (3) to produce a mixed feed. The softener is characterized by the following properties: 1) the mixed feed's viscosity is lower than the feed's viscosity, 2) the softener's vapour pressure is lower than the unsaponifiables of the feed's vapour pressure, 3) the softener's molecular weight is at least 750, and, optionally, 4) the softener is heat resistant.